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ALCOAST 062/04
COMDTNOTE 1521
SUBJ: PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT TRAINING PROGRAM

- A. TRAINING AND EDUCATION MANUAL, COMDTINST M1500.10B, CHAP 3 (CH-1)
- B. PERSONNEL MANUAL, COMDTINST M1000.6A, CHAP 1.A.7

1. The Health and Safety Directorate is soliciting applications for the FY-2005 Physician Assistant (PA) training program. As this msg is very detailed, read it in its entirety to ensure compliance with current policy and procedures. Review and understanding of references (a) and (b) is essential to the application process.

2. The CG sponsored PA training program is held at the interservice PA school (IPAP) at Fort Sam Houston, San Antonio, TX. This program is 24.5 mos long. Phase I (50 wks) is heavily didactic, offering 95 semester hours (sh) and consist of basic medical/clinical sciences. Phase II (54 wks) is at designated service specific sites, consisting of clinical rotations and continued didactic instruction, offering an additional 50 plus semester hours. Selected applicants should expect 3 PCS moves in 24 mos. The number of students selected each yr is based upon the needs of the CG, generally not to exceed 3. Graduates from IPAP receive a BS degree upon completion of Phase I and an MS degree upon completion of Phase II from the Univ of Nebraska, as well as a CG commission as a temporary regular ensign. These officers incur a 3 for 1 service payback obligation for their first year of training and a 1 for 1 service payback obligation for their second year of training, for a total CG service payback obligation of 4 years.

3. Prerequisites for this program include:

- a. CG active duty enlisted personnel, E-4 or above, in second or subsequent enlistment. Waivers for time in service requirement may be considered based on needs of the service, but cannot be less than 3 years active duty service at time of application. Commissioned warrant officers and regular officers are not eligible to apply.

- b. Documented 100 hrs of patient care experience as an Emergency Medical Technician (EMT), Health Service Technician (HS), paramedic, hospital volunteer, or other health related field. Documentation must be in ltr form from a supervisor in the facility where the experience was gained, or, for CG EMTs, a command endorsement that documents the experience.

- c. Be physically qualified for worldwide duty and pass a pre-commissioning physical examination IAW chapter 3-E-3, of the CG Medical Manual, COMDTINST M6000.1B.

- d. Have no court-martial convictions and no non-judicial punishment (NJP) during current enlistment.

- e. Applicant must be a United States citizen.

- f. Obtain a minimum Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT or SAT-1) score of 1000 (verbal and math combined) within the previous 5 yrs.

- g. Have a minimum of 60 semester hrs (sh) of transferable college credits with a grade point average of 2.5 on a 4.0 scale. At least 30 sh must be in resident and up to 30 sh may be obtained through military schools as recommended by the American Council on Education, CLEP or DANTES. Nonresident sh must be acceptable by the Univ of Nebraska, and be reported on a Dept of Defense application for the evaluation of learning experiences during military service (form DD-295).

- h. Mandatory college courses and minimum semester hours (sh) include:

- (1) Algebra (100 level or higher) 3 sh
- (2) Biology 6 sh (3 sh of Anatomy and 3 sh of Physiology)
- (3) Chemistry 6 sh
- (4) English 6 sh (3 sh must be English Composition)
- (5) Humanities/Social Sciences 6 sh
- (6) Psychology 3 sh

i. In addition to the command endorsement required as part of the e-resume process, applicants must submit three letters of recommendation: two letters of recommendation from U.S. Public Health Service/CG physicians or physician assistants who are familiar with the applicants medical experience and propensity for clinical care. Non-Health Service Technician (HS) applicants may substitute a letter from a civilian physician or physician assistant who is familiar with the applicant's health care experience. A third letter of recommendation from any uniformed services commissioned officer, must specifically address issues of leadership and the applicants potential to become a CG commissioned officer.

j. Submit a self-composed, typed essay (300 words or less) expressing the applicants reason for desiring to become a CG officer and physician assistant, how the CG will benefit by selecting them, and a brief description or example of how they respond to stressful situations.

4. Applicants must complete an e-resume and select the position associated with the physician assistant post-graduate program.

5. Forwarding command endorsements, now called the e-interview, shall contain a considered opinion of the applicant's leadership, interests, ability and potential value to the service relating to the curricula requested. Only endorsements from the immediate command are authorized. In the "job endorsement" page under the "recommendation" drop-down menu, commanding officers should choose "make offer" to positively endorse a candidates application.

6. Applicants must separately mail remaining application materials such as official transcripts, sat scores, three required letters of recommendation, personal essay, pre-commissioning physical examination, certified documentation of health care experience, signed payback statement, and a privacy act statement to CGPC-OPM-1. All application materials must be received by 15 MAY 04.

7. Candidates are encouraged to seek amplifying info on eligibility requirements, prerequisites, and application procedures by contacting LT Marc Hawkins, COMDT (G-WKH-2), at (202) 267-6070. Questions regarding the processing of adv ed applications should be Directed to YN1 Ada Harris (CGPC-OPM-1), at (202) 493-1617.

8. Internet release authorized.

9. RADM Paul J. Higgins, Director of Health and Safety, sends.

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